control of the Plague Special Officer for work connected with plague preventive measures.

(*g*) The epidemic has almost subsided now. Except for one case of death from plague at Alleppey on the 4th Karkatakam 1111 and another on 3rd Karkatakam 1111 at Paravoor near Alleppey, there has been no case of human plague after the 11th Mithunam 1111. Stray cases of rat plague, however, continue to occur in a small area, *viz.*, the Puthenangadi and Mullakkal Wards of the town.

(*h*) The value of the thatched huts and sheds destroyed in connection with preventive measures has been estimated at Rs. 2,407. The question of the payment of compensation to the owners of the sheds and huts is under consideration.

*Motor vehicle-tax in Municipalities.*

165. *MR. M. K. JANARDANA KAMATH (*Commerce and Industry, North*): Will the Government be pleased to state:

(*a*) whether they are aware of the fact that heavy arrears of motor vehicles-tax remain to be collected in almost all the Municipalities in Travancore;

(*b*) whether any Municipalities have drawn the attention of the Government to the several practical difficulties in realising the motor vehicles-tax;

(*c*) whether any Municipalities have suggested to the Government that the production of a certificate from Municipalities within whose limits the motor vehicles ply, that all taxes in respect of such vehicles have been paid should be made a condition precedent to the renewal of "G" permits of such vehicles;

(*d*) whether the Government have published, in the Gazette, a notification inviting objections, if any, to the carrying out of the proposal contained in part (*c*) above;

(*e*) whether the Government have taken further steps subsequent to the said notification in the Gazette;

(*f*) if the answer to part (*e*) is in the affirmative, what steps have been taken; and

(*g*) whether the Government are aware of the fact that, in the All-Travancore Municipal Conference, a resolution has been passed to the effect that the Government should take immediate steps to minimise the practical difficulties of the Municipalities in realising the motor vehicles-tax, and to facilitate collection of such tax?

RAO BAHADUR DR. N. KUNJAN PILLAI (*Chief Secretary to Government*):

(*a*), (*b*), (*c*), (*d*) and (*e*) Yes.

(*f*) The proposal is under reference to Municipal Councils.

(*g*) Yes.

*Municipal Office, Padmanabhapuram.*

166. *MR. K. R. ELENKATH (*Kalkulam I*): Will the Government be pleased to state:

(*a*) whether the Municipal Office, Padmanabhapuram, is housed in a rented building or in a building of its own;

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[Mr. K. R. Elenkath.]

(*b*) if in a rented building, the annual expenditure incurred on office rent;

(*c*) whether the need for a permanent building of its own has been repeatedly pressed upon the attention of the Government;

(*d*) if so, when and in what manner;

(*e*) whether the Government have sanctioned the site of the P. W. D. Offices at Thuckala for the construction of a Municipal Office and if so, when;

(*f*) whether the Government have, as a necessary condition precedent to making over the site to the Municipality, urgently directed the Chief Engineer to take early steps for the construction of the new building to hold the P. W. D. Offices in the local jail compound, as early as 1109; and

(*g*) if so, what action has been taken by the Chief Engineer on that direction and how far the work of construction of the P. W. D. Offices in the local jail compound has proceeded?

**RAO BAHADUR DR. N. KUNJAN PILLAI** (*Chief Secretary to Government*):

(*a*) In a rented building.

(*b*) Rs. 204.

(*c*) Yes.

(*d*) At the 24th and subsequent four sessions of the Sri Mulam Popular Assembly. Deputations waited on the Dewan in 1933 and 1935.

(*e*) The site of the P. W. D. Telephone Exchange, Thuckala, was sanctioned to be transferred to the Municipal Council as soon as a new building for the Telephone Exchange was constructed. This was in 1933.

(*f*) Yes.

(*g*) The jail compound was not available as it was handed over to the Excise Department for holding the Excise Sub Inspector's office Another strip of land from the Police Station compound was made available for locating the Telephone Exchange. The estimate for the construction of the building has been sanctioned and a sum of Rs. 3,000 is provided in the Budget for 1112 for the purpose.

**MR. K. R. ELENKATH** (*Kalkulam I*): With reference to answer to part (*g*), may I know whether the sum of Rs. 3,000 is the estimate for the completion of the building or for part of the work?

**RAO BAHADUR DR. N. KUNJAN PILLAI** (*Chief Secretary to Government*): I think it covers only a part of the estimate and is not sufficient to meet the whole expenditure.

**MR. K. R. ELENKATH** (*Kalkulam I*): May I know when the Government contemplates to complete the building and hand it over to the Municipality?

**RAO BAHADUR DR. N. KUNJAN PILLAI** (*Chief Secretary to Government*): As soon as the balance of the amount is provided and the building is completed.

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MR. K. R. ELENKATH (*Kalkulam I*): May I know the date when the strip of land from the Police Station compound was made available for locating the Telephone Exchange?

RAO BAHADUR DR. N. KUNJAN PILLAI (*Chief Secretary to Government*): In G. O. dated the 16th January 1933, the Chief Engineer was asked to take steps for the construction of the building in the jail compound. But the site in the jail compound was not available as it was handed over to the Excise Department for holding the Excise Sub-Inspector's office. Another strip of land from the Police Station compound was made available for locating the Telephone Exchange. The estimate for the construction of the building has been sanctioned and a sum of Rs. 3,000 is provided in the Budget for 1112 for the purpose.

MR. K. R. ELENKATH (*Kalkulam I*): May I know the time required for the completion of the work?

RAO BAHADUR DR. N. KUNJAN PILLAI (*Chief Secretary to Government*): I claim notice.

MR. M. SIVATANU PILLAI (*Tovala*): May I know whether the expenditure is to be met out of common funds or from Municipal funds?

RAO BAHADUR DR. N. KUNJAN PILLAI (*Chief Secretary to Government*): Sanction has been granted to meet the expenditure from the P. W. D. Budget. I cannot now say definitely whether it will be recovered from the Municipality.

MR. A. EASWARA PILLAI (*Kalkulam II*): May I know whether the Municipality is in a position to meet the expenditure?

RAO BAHADUR DR. N. KUNJAN PILLAI (*Chief Secretary to Government*): The financial position of the Municipality has to be looked into.

*Land sold for arrears of tax.*

167. * MR. K. PADMANABHAN (*Chirayinkil I*): Will the Government be pleased to state the number of sales held and the extent of land sold for arrears of land tax in the Chirayinkil taluk:

(*a*) in the year 1111 so far (till 31-11-1111); and

(*b*) in the year 1110 till the end of Mithunam?

MR. K. GEORGE (*Land Revenue and Income Tax Commissioner*): (*a*) and (*b*) A statement furnishing the necessary information is given below.

| | *Period.* | *Number of Sales.* | *Extent of land sold.* | |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| | | | *Acres.* | *Cents.* |
| 1. | 1111 M. E. up to end of Mithunam ... | 133 | 26 | 26¼ |
| 2. | 1110 M. E. up to end of Mithunam ... | 56 | 15 | 40 |

MR. K. PADMANABHAN (*Chirayinkil I*): May I know the extent of paddy lands and garden lands?

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